

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1648

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, UR, GE

SUBJECT: V-E DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 024912

HISTORICALLY THE RECORD IS CLEAR THAT UNTIL AUGUST 23, 1944
WHEN THE ANTONESCU REGIME WAS OVERTHROWN, THE MAIN WWII
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE US AND ROMANIA CAME THROUGH OUR
BOMBING OF THE PLOIESTI OIL FIELDS. TO BE SURE, AFTER
AUGUST 23 ROMANIA HAD A RESPECTABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ALLIED SIDE. WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS CONTEXT I
SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY
OF PROGRAMMING A STOP AT CONSTANTA FOR ANY US NAVAL
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VESSELS WHICH MIGHT BE VISITING SOVIET BLACK SEA PORTS

FOR V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS. BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO
CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE OF US AND ROMANIAN
VETERANS (INCLUDING AMERICANS WHO TOOK PART IN THE
PLOIESTI BOMBINGS, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE ROMANIAN HISTORY
NOW ASCRIBES TO THESE EVENTS). THE PRINCIPAL
ADVANTAGE FROM OUR STANDPOINT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES AROUND
V-E DAY WOULD BE TO SERVE AS REMINDERS OF US AND ALLIED
ROLES IN WWII AND OF CONTINUED US INTEREST IN THIS PART
OF EUROPE. IN THE INTERIM, I AM ASKING DAO TO MAKE
DISCREET INQUIRIES ABOUT ROMANIAN V-E DAY ANNIVERSARY
PLANS.
BARNES

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